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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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SUBJECT: SOVIET EMBASSY PROTEST POST EDITORIAL

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF APRIL 17 WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL PROTESTED BY SOVIET EMBASSY PRESS COUNSELOR KAMANEV APRIL 20.

2. QUOTE DIPLOMATIC HOSTAGES AND DETENTE. THE PREDICAMENT OF SOVIET AND AMERICAN DIPLOMATS WORKING IN EACH OTHER'S COUNTRY THESE DAYS REFLECTS ALL TOO ACCURATELY THE SOURED STATE OF "DETENTE." BECAUSE OF CONTINUING STARK SOVIET RESTRICTIONS ON SOVIET JEWS, A FEW AMERICAN JEWS HAVE ADOPTED CRIMINAL TERROR TACTICS AGAINST SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN NEW YORK--TO THE POINT OF FIRING INTO APARTMENTS OCCUPIED BY CHILDREN. THE NEW YORK POLICE AND OTHER AUTHORITIES HAVE APPLIED EXTRAORDINARY DILIGENCE TO THE TASK OF SAFEGUARDING THE DIPLOMATS, BUT WITH LESS THAN TOTAL SUCCESS. AS A RESULT, THE KREMLIN HAS UNDERTAKEN A CAMPAIGN OF PHONE THREATS, BOMB SCARES AND PHYSICAL INTIMIDATION AGAINST AMERICAN DIPLOMATS IN

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MOSCOW. DAILY LIFE FOR THE TWO DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITIES

COULD SCARCELY BE MORE GRIM.

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT DIPLOMATS OF ALL NATIONS MUST

BE PERSONALLY IMMUNE FROM ALL SUCH THREATS AND HOSTILE ACTS. NO MEASURE OF POLITICAL DISAGREEMENT JUSTIFIES HOLDING DIPLOMATS HOSTAGE TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS' POLICIES. THAT SAID, THERE IS A GLARING DIFFERENCE IN THE TWO SITUATIONS. THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO UPHOLD THE LAW AND BRING TO ACCOUNT THE PERPETRATORS OF ANTI-SOVIET CRIMES IN NEW YORK. THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS ITSELF BREAKING THE LAW AND DISHONORING ITS INTERNATIONAL DUTY BY CONDUCTING ORGANIZED HARASSMENT OF AMERICANS IN MOSCOW. A MONTH AGO, IN REGARD TO COMPLAINTS OF AMERICANS THERE THAT THEY WERE BEING EXPOSED TO DANGEROUS RADIATION FROM SOVIET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT, THE QUESTION WAS RAISED WHETHER THE UNITED STATES OUGHT TO GIVE SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON A SIMILAR DOSE. THE ANSWER, QUITE PROPERLY, WAS NO. OTHER, LEGAL FORMS OF RECIPROCAL TREATMENT--SUCH AS WITHDRAWAL BY AMERICANS FROM ALL BUT THE MOST FORMAL ESSENTIAL CONTACTS WITH SOVIET DIPLOMATS--WOULD BE MUCH MORE APPROPRIATE. BUT THAT ONLY POINTS UP THE TRULY UGLY NATURE OF THE KREMLIN'S CONDUCT IN THESE AFFAIRS. IT OUGHT TO BE WIDELY CONDEMNED.

NO LESS WORTHY OF CONDEMNATION, HOWEVER, ARE THE ASSAULTS BY MILITANT JEWS IN NEW YORK. THEY ARE DOING A GOOD DEAL MORE THAN BREAKING THE LAW, UNDERCUTTING THE HOSPITALITY THE UNITED STATES OWES FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND PROVIDING A PRETEXT FOR SOVIET COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST AMERICAN DIPLOMATS. THEY ARE ALSO ALARMING THE VERY PEOPLE, SOVIET JEWS, WHOSE CAUSE THEY PROFESS TO ESPOUSE. JEWS IN MOSCOW HAVE ALREADY RELAYED THEIR CRITICISM OF THE LIKES OF THE "JEWISH ARMED RESISTANCE," PROTESTING ON PRINCIPLE AGAINST THE USE OF TERROR AND NOTING THAT THE KREMLIN MIGHT USE THE PROVOCATION AS GROUNDS FOR A FURTHER CRACKDOWN ON SOVIET JEWS.

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UNION'S REFUSAL TO RESPECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ITS CITIZENRY, IN THIS CASE, THE RIGHTS OF JEWS. IF ANYTHING IS CLEAR FROM THE RECENT YEARS OF CLOSE FOREIGN ATTENTION TO THE MATTER, HOWEVER, IT IS THAT TACTICS MEANT TO RELIEVE SOVIET CITIZENS MUST BE CAREFULLY DESIGNED AND EXECUTED. RECENT WELL-INTENTIONED EFFORTS TO USE ECONOMIC LEVERAGE TO PROMOTE JEWISH EMIGRATION, FOR INSTANCE, ENDED UP CONTRIBUTING TO A

SHARP DROP IN EMIGRATION, A STALEMATE IN TRADE, AND A
DETERIORATION OF ATMOSPHERE WHICH PLAYED BACK
NEGATIVELY INTO STILL OTHER SOVIET-AMERICAN PROJECTS.
WE ARE NOT SURE HOW TO RESTORE THE GENERALLY MORE

POSITIVE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH EMIGRATION, AMONG OTHER
THINGS, GREW IN 1973-74. WE ARE CONFIDENT, THOUGH, THAT
THE WAY NOT TO DO IT IS TO FIRE BULLETS INTO THE
APARTMENTS OF SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN NEW YORK. END QUOTE.
ROBINSON

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